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Town attorney: ATM petition articles non-binding

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Three articles on the Annual Town Meeting submitted via petition will be non-binding, according to Attorney Greg Corbo.

Corbo weighed in on the three articles in the Selectboard meeting on Monday evening.

"If (these articles) were approved at town meeting, they would be merely advisory to the Selectboard suggesting that you withdraw the stormwater fee, but they would not mandate you to

do so," he said. "In terms of the use of land (Constantino Field), that is an executive function that is subject to either the Selectboard or the Recreation Department."

One petition, submitted by Karl Krawczyk, seeks to see if the town will votes "to move the disc golf course to a piece of property to a better location which will accommodate league and tournament play without disrupting the quality of residents'/abutters' lives," according to Town Clerk Colleen Toothill-Berte.

The current location of the proposed disc golf course is behind

"(These articles) are proposing action that appears to be beyond the authority of town meeting."

ATTORNEY GREG CORBO

Constantino Field.

The other two petitions pertain to the stormwater utility fund and bylaws. One petition proposes to change the way which the program receives funding and the other requested to stop use of

the stormwater enterprise fund, according to Department of Public Works Director Steve Williams.

Corbo explained his interpretation that the articles would be non-binding.

Any groups of residents can

petition to have an article on the town meeting warrant, which requires 10 certified signatures. Carbo said the article must be put on the warrant exactly in the form it was received.

"Whether it is in the proper form of a warrant article or it proposes to do something lawful, you are required to put it on the warrant, which is still in the preparation process but will be done in this case," Corbo said. "Once they're on the warrant

See **ATM**, page 8 •

BELCHERTOWN

Selectboard approves 25% design for new road

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

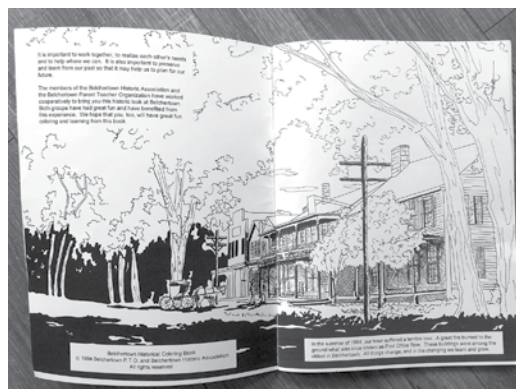
BELCHERTOWN – Despite the pandemic, development at the former Belchertown State School property is coming along, following the Selectboard's unanimously approval of the 25% design of a new road off Carriage Drive.

Town Administrator Gary Brougham explained why he needed the board's approval at a recent meeting.

"Several weeks ago, following the demolition of the laundry and food preparation buildings at the former Belchertown State School main campus, MassDevelopment and the (Economic Development Industrial Corporation) are moving forward to construct an additional industrial road off Carriage Drive," he said. "It will be about 600-feet in length ending in cul-de-sac access to that section of the former campus earmarked for light industrial uses."

He said when the group did Carriage Dr they didn't go through a formal peer review process, which caused complications at the intersection of Jackson St. Brougham said the group was hoping to avoid a similar situation happening again.

See **BOS**, page 12 •



Last weekend people were able to get a free coloring book created by Cheryl Dutton.

LEFT: The Belchertown historical coloring book is a reprint of a 25-year-old project by Cheryl Dutton.

TOP: Belchertown Cultural Council members Jennfier Whitehead, Trista Hevey and Jocelyn Walker helped to distribute a Belchertown-themed coloring book to the public last weekend.

GRANBY

HS students to return in person full time April 26

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

GRANBY – Students in grade nine through 12 will be returning to full time, in-person schooling beginning on April 26.

The decision was unanimously approved by the Granby School Committee at its April 6 meeting.

Interim Superintendent Carol Hepworth told the committee as of April 6, they had yet to receive guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding grades 9 through 12.

School Committee Chair Jen Bartosz said she wanted to revisit the matter, which was discussed at the last meeting.

"I'd like to at least revisit what we talked about when we mean everybody back on April 26, which is the Monday after vacation," she said. "If there's something earth shattering that comes out from guidance from the commissioner, we look at it at that point. I know there are other districts that are back full time."

Granby Jr/Sr High School Principal Stephen Sullivan told the committee the high school could make it work, barring any drastic changes from DESE.

"As long as the commissioner doesn't come back to say high

See **GRANBY**, page 8 •



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COMMUNITY

Election letters, candidate Q and A welcome

BELCHERTOWN/GRANBY– Election season is in full swing and the Sentinel seeks to inform voters about the candidates running this year.

Letters of support

The Sentinel welcomes readers to participate in this year’s town election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 350 words from local residents endorsing specific candidates or discussing local campaign issues should be emailed to Sentinel@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon on Wednesday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last two weeks before the election. The last issue letters will run will be the May 6 issue of the paper.

Candidate Q and As

Candidates in the upcoming election are invited to send answers to the following questions to run as a candidate Q and A. These are due by Monday, April 26 by 12 p.m. The word limit is 600 for the Q and A, excluding the questions. Please include a two-sentence introduction.

- The questions are:
- Why are you running for this position? If you are seeking reelection what qualifies you to continue in this role?
 - What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will you address it?
 - Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown/Granby municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?
 - Do you feel the town is doing enough to foster racial/social equity? How would you do so, if elected?
 - (For School Committee candidates only) What are the school’s capital needs? What should the School Committee be doing in the next three years to address them?
 - (For Selectboard candidates only) With budget season coming in Belchertown/Granby how do you intend to tackle areas that may be struggling with potential deficits?
- Candidates are encouraged to include a photograph with their statements. Both the text and photograph must be emailed to Sentinel@turley.com.
- Priority of the Q and As will be given to candidates in contested races. In the interest of fairness to all candidates, press releases about fundraisers or campaign events will not be printed.
- Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs, events and fundraising may contact Maureen McGarrett at mmcgarrett@turley.com about paid advertising in the Belchertown Sentinel.



Cases stay steady

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Though the COVID-19 case numbers have dropped slightly over last week’s, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health shows the data is increasing.

The current case positivity rate is 2.27% for the two-week period of March 28 to April 4. The week prior was 1.97%. The current rate per 100,000 is 22.7 and last week it was 18.2.

Belchertown remains the yellow designation based on the data, as of April 12.

There have been 16 news cases in the last week from Sunday, April 4 to Saturday, April 10, according to data from the Quabbin Health District. The total numbers of cases is 840.

There were 28 new cases during the last weekly period from Sunday, March 28 to Saturday, April 3.

There were 1,036 tests performed in the last weekly period and a total of 33,916 tests on Belchertown residents as of April 6.

There were no deaths in the last weekly period, leaving the number of deaths from COVID-19 at 16.

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EASTHAMPTON - Police Dept., 32 Payson Avenue
GOSHEN - Police Dept., 40A Main Street
HADLEY - Police Dept., 15 East Street
NORTHAMPTON - Smith Voke, 80 Locust Street
PELHAM - Police Dept., 2 South Valley Road
SOUTHAMPTON - Police Dept., 8 East Street
SOUTH HADLEY - Police Dept., 41 Bridge Street
WILLIAMSBURG - Williamsburg Pharmacy
WORTHINGTON - Transfer Station

FRANKLIN COUNTY
DEERFIELD - Police Dept., 8 Conway Street
GREENFIELD - Police Dept., 321 High Street
LEVERETT - Police Dept., 95 Montague Road
MONTAGUE - Police Dept., 180 Turnpike Road
SUNDERLAND - Police Dept., 105 River Road

For more information: NorthwesternDA.org

COMMUNITY

Quabbin Photo Group to host ‘Voyager, Visitors and Home’

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group will host photographer Dale Monette at their meeting April 26 at 7 p.m.

In this program Dale Monette will focus on birds that visit New England just for a stop-over during migration, birds that spend months here and call New England home.

Five years in the making and many miles traveled, not to mention the gallons of blood lost to mosquitos in ponds and swamps. Monette will show images and stories behind the images. He will also include a section on the successful bald eagle introduction as a nesting species to Massachusetts that took place at the Quabbin Reservoir during the 1980's by Mass Wildlife. From great gray owls to red-backed voles come by and see what, where and who he found in his travels around New England.

All meetings of the Quabbin Photo Group are free of charge and are currently being held via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public and if you would like to join the meeting contact Gail Platz at: gspqpg@gmail.com.

Monette is a nature photographer specializing in wildlife and landscapes mainly of the Quabbin Reservoir. Born and raised in Athol, Massachusetts, since the early 1970s he lived within two miles of the Quabbin Reservoir. An avid birder, since his youth,



© Dale Monette

COURTESY PHOTO

Quabbin photo group will host Dale Monette on April 26 at 7 p.m.

Monette grew up birding, fishing, and hiking many of the trails, ponds and swamps of the northern Quabbin region. Through his photographs, Monette shares his unique familiarity with the land and the animals living throughout Massachusetts and the Quabbin watershed. In the early 1980's Monette received a BS degree from UMass's Department of Environmental Conservation in Natural Resources Conservation. He spent his career working at Quabbin as an educator and a naturalist with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation retiring in 2014. During the 1980s, he was

involved in the successful efforts to bring back the common loons and bald eagles as nesting species to the Quabbin watershed. Monette is well versed in the nature and history of the Quabbin Reservoir and makes presentations to the public on these themes. Monette also has two wildlife photography books released and is currently working on his third book. Also, he was recently featured with his photography on WCVB Boston Channel Fives' long running evening Chronicle program as part a show entitled "Winter in Quabbin."

Belchertown students among 350 youth leaders take part in training

BOSTON - At a time of increased national polarization, more than 350 eighth graders from across Massachusetts—known as Project 351 Ambassadors—gained skills as bridge builders and upstanders through leadership training with the Boston Celtics.

Among them was Sophie Poissant, a junior playbook trainer.

Ambassadors engaged in the Playbook Initiative, an anti-bias, anti-discrimination training led by thirteen Project 351 Alumni. Playbook is a partnership between Project 351, a Massachusetts nonprofit organization that fosters leadership and unity through service, and Celtics United, the Boston Celtics' \$25 million, 10-year commitment to racial and social justice.

Thirteen high school leaders, who hail from across Massachusetts (list attached) and previously represented their home communities as Project 351 eighth grade Ambassadors, led a series of virtual workshops that focused on bias and discrimination.

Playbook features real-world scenarios on topics including race, gender and religion, which build the Ambassadors' knowledge, empathy, and skills to lead as upstanders.

This marks the third year of partnership between the Celtics and Project 351 to scale Playbook to middle school students across the state, and the eleventh year of the

Celtics support of Project 351's youth-led movement for positive change. New Balance serves as the presenting sponsor of the Playbook Initiative.

"Project 351 is inspired by the Celtics' vision for strong, just, and inclusive communi-

ties. Celtics United reflects a powerful legacy of leadership that is both historic and transformative," said Carolyn Casey, Project 351 Founder and Executive Director. "We're honored to partner in our common mission to root out bias and discrimination in any form -- with even greater urgency in these divisive times. We're very proud of the 2021 Playbook Trainers for their courage to lead and commitment to serve."

"As the Celtics set out to help push this important movement forward we sought the best partners who have been leading in this space for years, and Project 351 is chief among them," said Dave Hoffman, Vice President, Community Engagement, Boston Celtics. "We're proud to partner with Project 351 for another innovative year of programming, and, with the support of New Balance, the hundreds of youth leaders who participated in Playbook this year will carry this message of justice, inclusivity, and respect forward in countless ways across Massachusetts and beyond."

Playbook's visionary model was developed by Celtics players, coaches, trainers, and staff; and features youth-authored "scenarios" that depict bias and discrimination across race, culture, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. This year's Playbook Trainers were selected via a competitive application process for their demonstrated leadership, passion for social justice, and exemplary values. Playbook Trainers completed intensive preparation including two months of training and one-on-one coaching in facilitation and the Playbook curriculum, before leading Playbook Workshops with Project 351's eighth grade Ambassadors.

Vote by mail in the upcoming election

BELCHERTOWN – Governor Charlie Baker signed legislation extending the no excuse vote by mail until June 30, so the Belchertown Town Election on May 17 would qualify. The same system is in place as was in 2020.

A voter can request a ballot by mail by completing an applica-

tion and returning it to our office. Applications may be found attached to the Drop box at Town Hall, on the Town Clerk's webpage or if they call the office at 413-323-0281. Staff would be happy to mail them an application.

Once the Clerk's office receive the ballots, they will begin mail-

ing them out and voters can use the drop box at Town Hall to drop off their voted ballots as well. The "Track my ballot" on the Secretary of State webpage will also be available so voters can track the progress of their ballot through the system the same way they could for the 2020 elections.

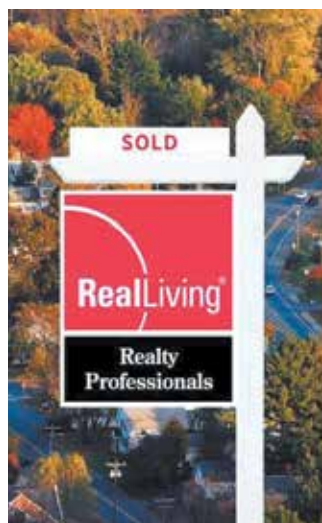


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Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, April 15 to Wednesday, April 21.

- Thursday, April 15**
 - 8 a.m. – Selectboard - April 12
 - 10 a.m. – Conservation Comm. – April 12
 - 12 p.m. – Planning Board – April 13
 - 7 p.m. – Selectboard – April 12
 - 9 p.m. – Conservation Comm. – April 12
 - 11 p.m. – Planning Board – April 13
- Friday, April 16**
 - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 9 a.m. – “Count on Me” - The students of Swift River directed by Mr. Gould
 - 9:30 a.m. – Finance Comm./Select Board Joint Mtg – April 6
 - 11:30 a.m. – School Committee – April 6
 - 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 8 p.m. – “Count on Me” - The students of Swift River directed by Mr. Gould
 - 8:30 p.m. – Finance Comm./Select Board Joint Mtg. – April 6
 - 10:30 p.m. – School Committee – April 6
- Saturday, April 17**
 - 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
 - 8:30 a.m. – “Count on Me” – The students of Swift River directed by Mr. Gould

- Sunday, April 18**
 - 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
 - 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
 - 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
 - 8:30 p.m. – “Count on Me” – The students of Swift River directed by Mr. Gould.

- Monday, April 19**
 - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 6:30 p.m. – Selectboard – Channel 191

- Tuesday, April 20**
 - 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
 - 8:30 a.m. – “Count on Me” – The students of Swift River directed by Mr. Gould

- Wednesday, April 21**
 - 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
 - 1 p.m. – Meditation with Lori - Grounding
 - 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select “residents,” click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on “watch meetings and events online.” The schedule is subject to change.

The BCTV weather information system is broadcast on TV channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station as well as, the current regional radar. This service operates 24 hours a day with audio provided by the National Weather Service from Albany New York, with forecasts, storm and emergency warnings for the Pioneer Valley.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor’s note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of March 24 through March 30. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 252 calls police responded to, there were eight incidents, two accidents, one arrest/summons and 16 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

There are no arrests to report this week.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

- Thursday, April 1**
 - 3:45 a.m. – Belchertown police responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.
 - 1:07 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud on behalf of a relative. The person had fraud employment benefits filled on their behalf. The person was advised to contact unemployment and put security freeze on the credit card through credit bureaus.
- Friday, April 2**
 - 4:25 p.m. – A resident reported a found firearm. The resident found a firearm in a residence they moved into. The reporting party said they found a firearm along with a loaded magazine that was left in a dresser drawer. The gun was brought to the station in a locked case. No other items were found. The officer tried to make contact with the owner. The firearm will remains in property pending contact with the owner.
 - 7:25 p.m. – An officer responded to South St for a report of disabled SUV. On arrival, the officer observed

a motorist who stopped to help operator. The officer made contact with the reporting party who said they went to fill the vehicle and the gas was full despite the vehicle reporting it was empty. Due to concerns about the operator, fire and paramedics were contacted. The party began to answer more appropriately but was getting upset treated by Palmer ambulance. The vehicle was towed from the scene because it wouldn’t start.

Saturday, April 3

- 10:57 a.m. – An officer spoke to an individual who bought an item from someone, but didn’t fully pay for it. The previous owner was looking to collect payment. Allegations and threats were made allegedly made between the two parties. The person received the payment was due.
- 12:25 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on Main St at Center St. One vehicle was exiting from Center to Main St. A second vehicle travelling south Main passed the first at the intersection of Main and Center when the traffic stopped suddenly causing the first vehicle to strike the back of the second. No injuries were reported.
- 11:47 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on South Liberty St. The accident occurred when a vehicle went over the fog line on the right side of the road, crashed into a railroad abutment, then travelled to the left side of the road, coming to stop against a utility pole. The operator reported they left their house after getting into an argument. The part was later transported to Baystate Wing for further evaluation.

Monday, April 5

- 3:24 p.m. – Belchertown dispatch got a 911 call about a structure fire on Stebbins Rd. There was a box alarm which dispatched two engines, a tanker and mutual aid from Granby for a two and a half story structure fire. Upon arrival, responders found an

extinguished fire on exterior and desk. The responders evacuated smoke that filled the structure. The cause of fire was ruled an accident. The reporting party said they awoke to the fire alarm and they noticed smoke and began to search for the source of the fire. The party walked around the back of their home to find the deck and back of home was on fire. They used a hose to attempt to put it out. They reported using a planter put out cigarette butts, but had not done so since the day prior.

- 8:24 p.m. – Officers spoke with resident about issues and concerns with their husband.

Granby Police Log

Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 243 calls for the week of April 2 through April 8. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Monday, April 5

- 8:52 a.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Carver St. The operator drove off the roadway and struck a utility pole.
- 6:38 p.m. – A citation was issued for unlicensed motor vehicle operation.

Tuesday, April 6

- 12:09 p.m. – Officers investigated a report of vandalism done to residents’ mailbox on Jennifer Dr.
- 3:33 p.m. – Officers investigated a two car accident on East State St and Fred Ruel Rd. No injuries were reported.

Thursday, April 8

- 6:02 a.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Pleasant St. No injuries were reported.
- 10:54 a.m. – Officers investigated a report of vandalism done to town property on West St.

Open air burning season ongoing

BELCHERTOWN – Open Air Burning Season for domestic tree trimming begins Jan. 15, 2021 and runs through May 1, 2021.

A permit/registration number is required. Please complete the bottom portion of a burn permit registration form located on our website: www.belchertown.org/fire. Please click on the word “Application” found on the website to bring up the registration form. Fill in the bottom portion of the form. Print the Form. And either bring this completed form to the Fire

Dept. at 10 North Main St. and place in white metal mailbox on front door with \$ 10 fee attached (exact amount in cash or check payable to “Town of Belchertown) or mail the completed form to: Belchertown Fire Dept. PO Box 1074, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Once this form is received, the department will email your registration number along with all necessary information on activating your permit on any day you wish you burn. Please be sure and include a mandatory email address on your form.

please recycle this newspaper

PD advises of qualification sessions at sportsman’s club

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Police Dept. will be conducting firearm qualifications for department members at the Swift River Sportsman’s club on May 13, 18 and 22. If those residents in the area hear a larger than normal volume of gunfire, it is due to these qualifications sessions.

SEASONAL LABORER(S)

Temporary Seasonal Laborer positions are available at the Belchertown Department of Public Works. Positions are approximately 32-40 hours per week (as scheduled by the Director of Public Works). Duties include using commercial grounds maintenance equipment (i.e. mowers, leaf blowers and vacs, string trimmers, brush and chainsaws, and basic hand tools). Must be able to engage in heavy physical labor on a regular and continuous basis, and capable of driving a pickup truck/landscape trailer combination. Positions are temporary and non-benefited.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid Massachusetts Driver’s License and have a clear driving record. A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Select Board’s Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours, and will be accepted until the positions are filled.

HIGHWAY DIVISION MECHANIC/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a full-time Mechanic/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works’ Highway Division. Applicants must have mechanical training in both light and CDL class vehicles with three years’ experience in the maintenance and repair of related equipment. A valid Class B Commercial Driver’s License and a Hoisting Engineer License, or the ability to obtain within six months, are required; experience in highway construction including heavy equipment motor vehicle operation is required.

A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Select Board’s Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

A Sunday sojourn, garden style

I enjoyed getting out into the garden last weekend, making my way around various parts of the yard that required attention. First stop, the perennial borders. As much as I love raking leaves, I raked the same gardens last month. It is always discouraging when you have to repeat something that you already did. Blame it on the massive oak tree in front of my house that just recently shed its leaves!

Why does it hold on to some of its leaves throughout the winter, anyway? I read some interesting hypotheses recently, explaining that the oak and its cousin the beech, are either evolutionarily delayed, or quite ahead of their time, depending on how you look at it. You see, we have the evergreens and we have deciduous trees. Then we have these trees in the middle. But what benefit could marcescence (holding on to dead leaves) be to the tree? One theory suggests that dead leaves covering the lower part of the tree protect vulnerable buds from deer browsing. Another says that the old leaves offer the buds measurable cold protection. I found yet two more explanations targeting moisture conservation, implying that the leaves funnel snow (I.e. water) to the base of the tree and that when the dead leaves fall they are the start of a moisture retentive mulch positioned exactly where the tree needs it the most, around the drip line. Very cool, indeed. Yet another thing to awe about creation, as if there weren't enough already!

While I was outside I took advantage of impending rain, and decided that there was no time like the present to lime and top dress my garlic with compost. This meant visiting the compost pile, and you guessed it, raking off a layer of oak leaves before giving it a few good turns, revealing the "black gold" beneath, teaming with worms. It's really neat to think that all those banana peels, egg shells, orange rinds and the like mixed with said leaves and grass clipping made this food for my garden. I filled a couple of buckets worth and headed over to the row of garlic. I was actually shocked to see that it had sprouted a good five inches in the 10 days or so I had been out of the garden. Better to get this task accomplished almost late than never, I guess. I pulled back the much, laid a layer of compost, then reset the mulch and sprinkled the whole bed with a bit of lime. I really should get my soil tested, but I remember reading something years ago that always said never to think about growing alliums in anything but sweet soil, so there you go. This is the second year that I planted my garlic, laid a layer of cardboard on top and then mulched the whole shebang. It is off to another great start, so it seems. The cardboard helps prevent weeds and conserve moisture.



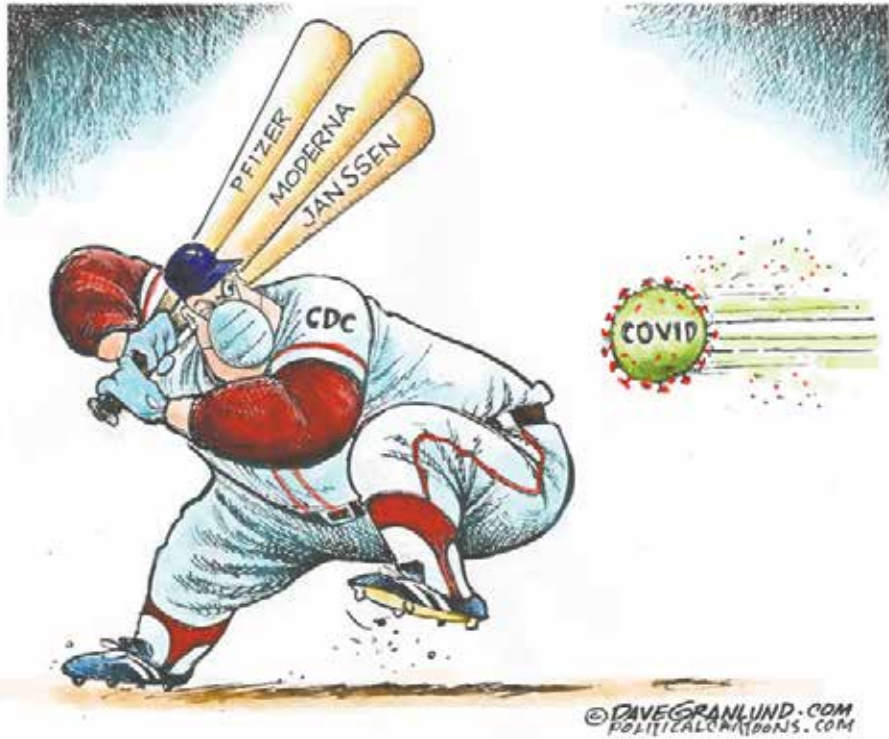
I also gave some lime to my lupines. It's what I was taught to do a million years ago and still do it, even though some sources say it is not needed. There is one bed, closer to my house that has been growing lupines far longer than the 10 years we've been here. In year two they flower, drop their seed and new plants germinate, sometimes with very little fan fare and usually in a spot where you least expect it or would desire it for perfect placement. Whether it is too close to another plant, too close to the front of the border or somewhere else not part of the plan, no worries. The volunteer always gets to stay because if you move it, chances are you will sever the tap root and lose the plant. And a June without lupines is too sad to risk it. The only time I have ever attempted moving a lupine seedling is when it has only its first or second true leaf, and then very, very carefully. Have fun with wherever you are led on your next afternoon in the garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



LETTERS

Vote for Nick Pucel

Dear Belchertown Community:

I am writing today to support Nick Pucel for a position on the Belchertown Selectboard. Nick and I met three years ago at Simply Fit and Spin here in Belchertown.

In my discussions with Nick, I learned that his professional background was in Financial Management. Nick never asked for my business or tried to sell me on becoming a client, but his demeanor and confidence inspired me to ask him about working on financial and retirement goals for my family. Nick was extremely professional right from the start.

When my wife and I met with Nick in his office at Edward Jones, he was extremely well prepared and presented us with a full retirement plan. This was some-

thing my wife and I had never seen before with previous financial planners. The process of moving our accounts was seamless with no stress involved. Nick's professional attitude and easy-going demeanor made it easy to transition.

We have been working with Nick for more than a year now. He is there for us any time we have a question. His follow-up is quick, timely and accurate.

Nick is married and a father to two young girls. Nick wants to make Belchertown a better place for his girls as they grow up here. Nick is someone we need on the Selectboard.

I fully support Nick Pucel in his bid to join the Belchertown Selectboard and ask that you vote for him.

Sincerely,

David Pare

Nick Pucel for Selectboard

Letter to the editor:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Nick Pucel for Belchertown Selectboard. Over the last three years, I have been fortunate enough to get to know Nick and his family. Nick is a hardworking, generous, supportive and open-minded candidate. His dedication to our community is evident in his everyday acts of kindness and volunteerism. His work with the Belchertown Education Foundation, the Belchertown Farmers Market and most recently, establishing a Community Food Pantry on Woodhaven Dr are just a few examples that highlight Nick's dedication to our community.

On a more personal note, as a small business owner, I was looking for a way to give back during the holidays; thankfully, Nick generously offered to work together

as a team. Nick understood that as a small business owner operating during a pandemic, I would need support in order to reach my donation goal. He agreed to match, dollar for dollar, the total summation of gift certificate sales made through Black Friday and Small Business Saturday. I am so proud to say that we surpassed our goal, and Nick was able to make an impact with his donation to The Food Bank of Western Mass and Safe Passages.

I believe that Nick Pucel will make a wonderful addition to the Belchertown Selectboard. Nick is kind, calm, open-minded and believes in making Belchertown a supportive and welcoming community. I am excited about Nick's vision and cannot wait to cast my vote for him on May 17.

Lisa Stahl, M.Ed., CPT

Vote for Ruby Bansal

To the Editor,

I am writing in strong support of Ruby Bansal for the Belchertown School Committee, and urge the people of this town to re-elect her on May 17. This board develops policies for education and support of all the children in town, and as such it plays a crucial role in defining our town. Ruby has shown herself to be an excellent listener and a thoughtful member of this board, and she has been instrumental in our decisions over the past three years.

I have served on this board for more than eight years, with many tough issues during that time. This last year brought by far the most challenging issue in our lifetime - how to safely meet the needs of children, both educational and emotional, in the face of a global pandemic.

Ruby brought her background as a scientist and a mother to help balance safety

with developmental needs for those in the school community, and has helped to push the entire board to make better decisions. She also helped develop the district strategic plan, negotiate contracts, hire/evaluate the superintendent and all the other typical governance issues that lead to success for our schools. In short, Ruby has an amazing depth of experience that we need on this board.

As our town moves into next year, we need people with the right perspective to help navigate the 'new normal' for our children and schools. Ruby has the right background and the right experience to ensure that our school system works for the kids in this town. I urge you to re-elect Ruby Bansal for the School Committee on May 17.

Mike Knapp,
Belchertown School Committee

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Belchertown, Granby & Amherst SENTINEL

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Energy and Sustainability Committee offers Earth Day tips

Earth Day 2021 is a great time to think about going “Green.” And we don’t mean just in terms of the environment, but also in terms of saving you money.

With everyone staying at home this past year, were you surprised by how much your heat and electricity bills were? Did you find your trash filling up and wondered if you could recycle more of it? Did you discover that working from home was a possibility and maybe you could finally drive a hybrid or electric car? If these were some of your thoughts, the Belchertown Energy and Sustainability Committee is here to help you find some answers to how you might save money and, in the process, help Belchertown become an even better “Green Community.”

If you think being “green” is just about saving the environment or celebrating Earth Day, you might be surprised to know that you can save money by taking part in sustainable activities. By going to <https://www.masssave.com/> you can find energy saving ideas which can decrease your costs, such as an energy assessment to improve your at-home comfort, and rebates for selecting energy efficient products. The Belchertown DPW page has listings on how to recycle better <https://www.belchertown.org/dpw/index.php>. Did you know that the DPW sponsors a collection of hazard waste? Check it out and clear out your basement and garage.

The town has already saved money by being a “Green Community,” which means that you as a taxpayer have saved money. In 2010, Belchertown received the state designation as a Green Community. Since then, the town has received \$532,574



The town of Belchertown will be providing biodegradable trash bags to anyone wishing to collect curbside trash on Earth Day. Trash bags may be obtained at the DPW, 290 Jackson St, Highway Garage location, April 19 to 21. DPW Director Steve Williams demonstrates picking up litter outside of the Highway Garage.

of grants to increase the efficiency of town infrastructures. For example, the grant’s helped fund upgrades such as a new boiler at Town Hall, exterior storm windows at the Recreation Center Building, LED lighting conversations, and HVAC improvements at the Family Center among other buildings. The most recent grant awarded in 2019 helped fund \$80,000 toward energy efficiency projects at the Belchertown High School. Those upgrades pay for themselves in less than four years through energy cost savings and are estimated to save the school nearly \$10,000 per year over the life of the systems. A great return on investment.

Established in Jan. 2021, the Energy and Sustainability Committee is charged with devel-

oping and recommending sound energy and sustainability programs and policies for the town. The committee members include Frank Byrne, Joanne Collins, Patricia Krebs, Todd Perry, John Piekara, Michael Potishnak and Jacob Robinson, with Ad Hoc members Department of Public Works Director Steve Williams, Director Buildings for Schools Eric LeBeau and from Selectboard Liaison Jim Barry.

Barry, the liaison between the Selectboard and the committee, when asked why the committee was formed replied: “We know that Global Climate Change is a serious problem for the town and its residents, not to mention our grandchildren’s grandchildren. The Selectboard unanimously supported the creation of this

committee to develop sound energy and sustainability programs and policies that will have a positive impact on our planet.”

The BESC is currently divided into three subcommittees, aimed at tackling three specific aspects of our sustainability mission in Belchertown. There is a public outreach subcommittee focused on communication with the media and tasked with projects such as the publication of this article. Another group of members is focused on establishing a clean choice electricity option, which will be proposed at the June Town Meeting. The third subcommittee is exploring possible sites for EV charging stations in town. We will be developing a webpage to keep the community informed of the latest resources for residents and

businesses. If you want to join us, our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Agendas are posted 48 hours prior to the meetings.

Earth Day ideas

Earth Day is on Thursday, April 22 and serves as a great way for us to unite as a community around the health of our planet, a cause to which the BESC is strongly committed. If you are unable to go help clean up our town in person on that day, there are things you can do as an individual to help make the planet greener. Those include recycling, limiting your plastic use altogether, as well as opting for sustainably-made materials. For more Earth Day tips and live streamed content all day, visit earthday.org to watch Earth Day Live. There are a lot of great tools there. For example, you can use the plastic footprint calculator, toolkits, and other resources to determine ways in which you can cut down your plastic usage, as well as take quizzes on other topics such as clean energy use, conservation and deforestation.

Locally, the Town of Belchertown will be providing biodegradable trash bags to anyone wishing to collect curbside trash on Earth Day. Trash bags may be obtained at the DPW, 290 Jackson St, Highway Garage location, April 19 to 21. All trash collected must be brought to the Transfer Station for disposal by Friday, April 23 during regular business hours or contact the DPW Office to arrange for pickup.

Use the hashtags #green-belchertown and #earthday to share your actions and tips for celebrating Earth Day today and all year long!

MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a full-time maintenance worker. The purpose of this position is to perform technical and manual work in the general maintenance and repair of public buildings and/or grounds; all other related work as required. The Maintenance Worker is responsible for maintaining and improving upon the efficiency and effectiveness of all areas under his/her direction and control.

A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Select Board’s Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Belchertown Water District

P. O. Box 801 • Belchertown, MA 01007 • (413)-323-6987

Due to COVID-19 protocol the 2020 Belchertown Water District Consumer Confidence Report is available by mail by calling (413) 323-6987.

It is available online on the District website www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org under “Reports” Direct URL: <https://www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org/Forms/ccrreport2020.bwd.pdf>

As the virus passes the report will be available at our main office located at 206 Jabish Street or at the Belchertown Selectman’s office as well as the Belchertown Public Library.

Belchertown Water District

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NOTICE:

The Belchertown Water District will be conducting the annual hydrant flushing program April 26th to May 7th 2021 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Flushing will begin in the northern end of the District and proceed south. Rusty colored water and low pressure may occur during this program.



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REGION

UMass Amherst Libraries bring city nature challenge to Pioneer Valley

AMHERST —The UMass Amherst Libraries are pleased to coordinate efforts for the Pioneer Valley’s participation in the annual international City Nature Challenge. The Challenge consists of a submission period from April 30 to May 3, during which participants submit observations (such as photos or audio evidence) of wild plants, animals and fungi using the free mobile app iNaturalist, and a crowd-source-based identification period from

May 4 to 9. According to the CNC website, the Challenge was started in 2016 by citizen science teams at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco “as a fun way to capitalize on their home cities’ friendly rivalry and hold a citizen science event around urban biodiversity.” Additionally, the wildlife information gathered during the Challenge “gives

scientists, educators, urban planners, and policymakers insight into the biodiversity of urban locales throughout the world.” Last year, more than 800,000 observations were made. Recently, Challenge organizers released a statement saying “In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 City Nature Challenge will not be focused on competition; instead we want to embrace the healing power of nature and celebrate tens of

thousands of people all around the world, searching for and documenting their local biodiversity, together in this event.” This year marks the second year that the Pioneer Valley is officially participating. Melanie Radik, librarian in the Science and Engineering Library, is spearheading organization efforts with an information guide and virtual workshops on April 29 and May 4 for interested participants.

GRANBY • from page 1

schoolers needs to be six feet apart, we’ll be okay. We are going to have move some classes, say for example you have a class in room 204 and you have 24 kids, and there are 21 desks, we’re going to have move them to the library, cafeteria or another space,” Sullivan said. “Those are some of the logistics that we’re working out now as we get a better idea of what those numbers will look like.” Sullivan said they have learned from having the seventh and eighth graders back in the building. “They’ve been really compliant, but they are often within three to six feet of each other and we tell them, then no greater than 10 seconds later they’re back,” he said. “Talking to the school nurse, the only worry we have around high school is the potential for contact tracing. The logistics, in terms of numbers and things, we feel we’re in a pretty good place to make it work. In the seventh and eighth grade, we have 82% back in person and grade nine through 12 we’re expecting 67%.” He added that the school has made positive steps in terms of using the gym for potential cafeteria space for students. “Fans were installed with the redistribution system that brings in and disburses air. We’re planning on bringing seats in there,” Sullivan said. “We’ve made lunch work with grades seven and eight, had about 80 students in the cafeteria, though one ate in a ninth grade classroom. We’ve been fortunate to have nice weather, so students are

opting to eat outside. We’re in a good place for lunch and break.” School Committee Vice Chair Stephanie Parent made a motion to bring students in grades nine through 12 back to full time in person learning starting April 26. “I think it’s important to remember not only our small size, but Stephen just said 67% were returning. We already have a small population and we’re cutting that down. I think that sounds reasonable,” Parent said. Hepworth also provided the board with an update following Granby’s return to the red designation according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. “I explained our focus is school spread not so much the community spread,” Hepworth said. “We’ve been working with the staff to focus on just in school spread rather than focusing on the community.” However, just because the schools are focusing on school spread does not mean there won’t be a class, grade, or potentially a building going remote should there a spread in a respective group. Hepworth said the schools are still doing contact tracing based on who is less than six feet from a person. “We are three feet apart per student, so if a student is positive, we have to look at where they are in relation to the other students around them, and they would have to quarantine,” Hepworth said. School Committee member Jill Pelletier said the schools are now following DESE guidance on the matter.

Belchertown children’s meals program menu
For the week of April 19 to April 23.
There will be no school due to spring recess.

ATM • from page 1

they became articles subject to action like any other article whether put on by the Selectboard or the Planning Board or any other town official.” He said the article will be subject to vote, debate, amendments, postponement and treated in the same way any other article would be treated. “It appears that from a matter of substance they suffer from a particular problem and that is that they are proposing action that appears to be beyond the authority of town meeting,” he said. “As you’re aware, town meeting is the legislative branch of town government and as the legislative branch, it has certain legislative responsibilities are given to the legislative branch, others to the executive.” He said the use of town property, in this instance, the Recreation Department, has custody and control of the land as well as the authority to make decisions about how the land is used. Town meeting could designate whether the property is put to certain uses, once the property is put to said use, it transfers to the executive branch. Regarding the stormwater issue, Corbo said he believed the articles were trying to

achieve the same thing – withdrawing the town’s stormwater management fee. There are two parts of the stormwater fee – one in an accounting component and the other is the fee. In 2019 voters established an enterprise, which is a dedicated account for the money raised is in one place to be used for the stormwater program. Without it, money would go into the general fund of the town. “It’s just an accounting mechanism to make sure that whatever funds raised by the town in connection to the stormwater program are put into this separate account and used for the purpose of the stormwater program,” Corbo said. While the fee was originally through the stormwater bylaw, in 2019 the bylaw was amended, removing the fee provisions. Those were then enacted as a regulation of the Selectboard. “The article that proposes the amendment to the stormwater bylaw appears to me that is trying to strike the language from a bylaw that has already been stricken,” Corbo said. “It is part of the regulation enacted by the Selectboard, but the board has the authority to enact those regulation and based on the concept of separation of powers, town meeting doesn’t have the authority to prohibit the board from excising that authority.”



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EDUCATION

Pre-school registration for peer model students open

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Public Schools is inviting residents to register their three and four-year-old children for preschool to be peer model students during the 2021-2022 school year. These programs are half-day and tuition-free.

Applications are available outside the main entrance from April 1 through April 30 and via the CSS website, belchertownps.org/css.

To be eligible for preschool:

- Students must be 3 or 4 years old on

or before Sept. 1, 2021.

- Students must be completely toilet trained.

Registration packets may be mailed to Cold Spring School, 57 South Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007 or deposited in the drop box located outside the main entrance.

Should the number of applicants exceed our peer model slots, a lottery will be held on Friday, May 7. If you have any questions, please call the Cold Spring Early Childhood Center at 413-323-0428.

St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus scholarship applications now available

BELCHERTOWN – The St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 10698 of Belchertown is again offering a scholarship to deserving high school graduating senior(s) who plan to continue their education at a college, university, trade school or other accredited post-high school institutions of higher learning and as striven and demonstrated traits of the same principles of our order or charity and service to their school, faith and community.

The scholarship is being offered to applicants who are:

- A graduating high school senior with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
- Either a: Belchertown resident, a family member of a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Council #10698 or parishioner of a Catholic parish in the council's general vicinity of Belchertown, Granby and

parts of Palmer and Ware.

- To use the awarded scholarship for payment of tuition to an institution of higher learning.

The application submittal deadline is postmarked no later than April 20. No email submissions will be accepted.

Applications are available in area High School Guidance Offices, St. Francis Parish Church vestibule, or online at the Belchertown Knights website page at <https://www.stfrancisbelchertown.com/knights-of-columbus>. Notification of scholarship recipients will be in early June, either by following their high school scholarship awards presentation traditions or my email.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Council's Scholarship Committee at kofcbelchertown@gmail.com.

Belchertown seniors featured in Q and A



Emma Sotiropoulos will be attending Bay Path University in the fall.



Emma Sotiropoulos

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux has begun featuring a member of the Class of 2021 in a question and answer survey about their tenure in the school.

Each of the seniors featured decorated a cap sharing their future plans and they have also answered questions about their experiences at “the Nest,” the school community of Belchertown Public Schools.

These seniors will be featured in the Sentinel as well.

Emma Sotiropoulos

What are your future plans?

I plan on attending Bay Path University and I am still considering the major I

would like to pursue.

What is your favorite memory from the Nest?

My favorite memory is seeing how nice and including everyone is when I came into this school.

What advice do you have for our younger Orioles?

The advice I would give to younger Orioles is to just enjoy everything because four years goes by too fast and you don't want to miss anything because before you know it, it's already done.

What is your proudest moment as an Oriole?

My proudest moment as an Oriole is getting towards that moment of graduating and feeling proud of earning my diploma from here.





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College **NOTES**

Kayla Henry named to
Fall 2020 Dean’s List at
Stonehill College

EASTON – Kayla Henry, of Belchertown, a member of the Class of 2021, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts.

Local students named
to Fall 2020 Dean’s List at
Saint Michael’s College

COLCHESTER, VT – The following local students were named to the Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College for the Fall 2020 semester.

- Jenna Blain, a senior neuroscience major from Belchertown and a graduate of Belchertown High School. Saint Michael’s College, founded in the great Catholic intellectual tradition, which also recognizes the principles of social justice and compassion, is a selective, fully residential Catholic college in Vermont’s beautiful Green Mountains.

American International
College announces
Fall 2020 Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College in Springfield, has named 640 students to the Dean’s List for

the fall 2020 semester. Dean’s List students are full time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these scholars during this unprecedented time.

Emma Bowers, of Granby
Trystin Burger, of Granby
Cenai Collins, of Amherst
Daniel Dineen, of Belchertown
Elizabeth Lobik, of Belchertown
Junior Pontes Da Veiga, of Amherst
Nora Young, of Granby

Founded in 1885, American International College is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences.

Springfield College
recognizes Dean’s List
students for the
2020 Fall Semester

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean’s List Students for the 2020 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named Michael White from Granby, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. White has a primary major of Applied Exercise Science.

Springfield College has named Samuel Clark from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Clark has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Elisha Wenc from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Wenc has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Matteo Picardi from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Picardi has a primary major of

Criminal Justice.

Springfield College has named John White from Granby, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. White has a primary major of Criminal Justice.

Springfield College has named Hailley Boutin from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Boutin has a primary major of English.

Springfield College has named Chase Kupinsky from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Kupinsky has a primary major of English.

Springfield College has named Erin Klaes from Amherst, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Klaes has a primary major of Exploratory Studies.

Springfield College has named Samantha Birks from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Birks has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Springfield College has named Rachel Drummond from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Drummond has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Springfield College has named Kaelyn Croteau from Granby, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Croteau has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Sonia Dugger from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Dugger has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Alberto Morales-Fernandez from Amherst, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Morales-Fernandez has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Juan Ross-Perkins from Amherst, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Ross-Perkins has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Trinity Sperry from Granby, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall

semester. Sperry has a primary major of Health Science.

Springfield College has named Quinn Kenneally from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Kenneally has a primary major of History.

Springfield College has named Grace Drost from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Drost has a primary major of Marketing.

Springfield College has named Joelle Ouimette from Belchertown, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Ouimette has a primary major of Marketing.

Springfield College has named Katherine Sarnacki from Granby, to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Sarnacki has a primary major of Sports Biology.

The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Local students make dean’s
list at Connecticut College

NEW LONDON, CT -The following students have been named to the Connecticut College dean’s list for the 2020 fall semester.

- Banti Jaswal, 2024, Dean’s High Honors, Undeclared
- Malina Kern, 2023, Dean’s Honors, Psychology
- Allison McNamara, 2021, Dean’s High Honors, International Relations

About Connecticut College Founded in 1911, Connecticut College is a highly selective private liberal arts college of 1,800 students located on a 750-acre arboretum campus in New London, overlooking Long Island Sound and the Thames River.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com.

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**Michele Braidwood joins
Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency**

BELCHERTOWN, MA – Bell & Hudson Insurance is excited to announce the hiring of Michele Braidwood in their Belchertown office as personal insurance Customer Service Representative. Michele is responsible for the processing of new business and renewal personal insurance coverages. She joins Bell & Hudson’s Belchertown personal insurance department employees, Candace McNeaney, Beth Gouin, Trisha Krafchuk, Chrissy Boulais and Leah Lakso.

Michele is a graduate of Monson Jr.-Sr. High School, and began her insurance career in 1992. She comes to Bell & Hudson Insurance with over 28 years of experience and is fully licensed in Massachusetts and Connecticut. She holds the CISR (Certified Insurance Services Representative) designation, is a Notary Public, and is fully trained with Registry of Motor Vehicles transactions.

Michele is an animal lover. She has been an 8-year volunteer for a local cat rescue, serving many towns throughout Western MA. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family, yardwork, reading, and binge-watching Netflix. She lives in Ludlow with her 3 cats, Bella, Leonard and Herschel.





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GRANBY

Granby scholarship recipient pays it forward

GRANBY - When Bobbi Rougeau received the scholarships that enabled her to attend Holyoke Community College, she was sure of one thing: "Someday I'm going to pay it forward."

She just was not sure when that might be.

In 2004, her first year in HCC's Early Childhood Education program, Rougeau was already operating a family childcare center out of her Granby home, attending classes at night and caring for twin girls born in 1998. That year she received the Kathryn "Kitty" Broman Scholarship through the HCC Foundation.

The Elaine Marieb New Directions Scholarship saw her through her second year, when she was taking a full course load and also renovating the building that would become a new stand-alone childcare facility. Two months after getting her associate degree in 2006, she opened the Alphabet Soup Childcare Center for infants on West State Street in Granby.

Now, despite the upheaval of the pandemic, she said the time is right to make good on her pledge. Rougeau has committed \$16,000 to endow an annual scholarship for students enrolled in HCC's Early Childhood Education program.

"Bobbi is creating opportunities for future generations of HCC students just like someone had done for her, and that makes the Alphabet Soup Scholarship even more special," said Amanda



Bobbi Rougeau, of Granby, sets up new fund for early childhood education students.

E. Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "The Alphabet Soup Scholarship will create opportunities for HCC's Early Childhood Education students to pursue their passion. Bobbi's generosity will help break down the financial barriers students often face achieving their degrees."

Rougeau faced this kind of barrier herself. Her mother was an office assistant, her father was

not in the picture, "and I honestly would not have been able to afford to get that degree on my own," she said.

As long as she can remember, Rougeau wanted not only to be a teacher but also to own her own childcare center. She started in the field at 16, working as an assistant teacher at the Belchertown Day School, where she later became certified as a lead teacher. Her HCC courses, including psychology, curriculum develop-

ment, and introduction to teaching students with exceptional learning needs, "brought awareness to things you don't think about as a young teacher," she said.

In 2016, marking the 10th anniversary of the opening of Alphabet Soup, Rougeau wrote a letter to HCC benefactor and retired professor Elaine Marieb.

"I was able to achieve my goal of an associate degree at the completion of that final semester thanks to your scholarship," Rougeau wrote. "You will be proud to know that I worked very hard in an effort to prove my worth as a recipient. I graduated with high honors and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa ... I know there are many others who would love nothing more than to attend college but find themselves in the same financial predicament. I had always wanted to pay it forward and make a difference in the same way you did for me."

Rougeau started with eight infants in her family day care center and now enrolls 105 children through kindergarten age in three locations, her original site and Alphabet Soup Preschool Plus in South Hadley and Granby. Her husband Jim, a truck driver, is "the maintenance guy," and daughters Casey and Cameron, now 22, are teachers.

Rougeau donated money for a partial scholarship in 2015 for one student, but due to financial concerns was unable to commit the full amount. Now, however, she said she has given almost half and

hopes to fully fund the rest within a year.

She had to shut down on March 19, 2020, following Gov. Charlie Baker's order that all early childhood education programs close as part of his emergency actions to slow the spread of COVID-19. When she heard the news, she stayed up until four in the morning filing the paperwork to participate in the state's Emergency Childcare Program and reopened "as if starting from scratch" three days later.

"We needed to help the families that had nowhere else to go," she said. "We served so many essential workers, it was heartwarming to be able to do it."

Sean and Grace LaValley, both nurses at Baystate Health, used the emergency program for their daughter, Maeve, when their regular preschool closed.

"I was deployed to a COVID-plus unit and was under an immense amount of stress," said Sean LaValley. "Alphabet Soup was able to accept our little one into the emergency program. I am so very thankful for their support during that daunting time. Knowing that my little one was under the care of the magnificent staff at Alphabet Soup made venturing into that unpredictable work environment every day that much easier."

Childcare centers were allowed to reopen on June 29 under strict new guidelines. Rougeau said she was happy to go back to offering more options for parents.

REGION

New app launches, aids Connecticut River paddlers

GREENFIELD - A new smartphone app launched on World Water Day, March 22, to help paddlers navigate the Connecticut River, particularly for multi-day paddles.

The Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail is a unique, water-based trail that includes a series of primitive campsites and river access points spanning over 400 miles of the Connecticut River through NH, VT, MA and CT.

CRPT is managed by a collaborative of more than 30 nonprofit

organizations and state agencies, including the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Vermont River Conservancy. Those interested in downloading the app can find it in CRC's online store at www.ctriver.org/shop, or search "Guthook Guides" in your smartphone app store.

"We chose to launch this new app on World Water Day, a day where people around the world recognize the importance of water in our lives,"

says Gabriel Chevalier, CRPT Coordinator. "The Connecticut River is the longest river in New England and enriches our lives in many ways. It offers many recreational opportunities that promote healthy communities and boost local economies. This new app offers paddlers an easy-to-use digital paddling guide to navigate the CRPT campgrounds, access points, rapids and other resources along the Connecticut River."

Proceeds from the \$9.99 app and waterproof printed maps are

used to fund trail stewardship projects. The app was developed in partnership with Atlas/Guthook Guides, who offer similar app-based guides for other well-known trails like the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail map is available as an in-app purchase in the Guthook Guides app, a free download from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

The Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail is managed by a collabora-

tive of organizations, guided by a shared vision. Partners assist with trail planning and development, building and stewarding primitive campsites, improving access points and portage trails, and disseminating information to visitors. Campsite development, as well as ongoing stewardship, is carried out by volunteers, scout troops, and youth stewardship corps who work together to mitigate the impacts of recreation use. To learn more, visit www.connecticutriverpaddlertrail.org

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Belchertown 80's kid paintings on display

AMHERST - Hope & Feathers Framing and Gallery hosts 80's Kid, paintings by Belchertown artist Chris Bordenca, through April 26.

The nostalgia and sense of fun is clear in Chris Bordenca's vibrantly-colored paintings of toys, action figures, and other treasured memorabilia from the 70's and 80's. His subjects are iconic and familiar: Star Wars characters, Batman villains, Rubik's Cubes, video games, sea monkeys, and more, that immediately evoke that pre-internet era, especially for 80's kids. Chris' work focuses on



Painting by Belchertown resident Chris Bordenca will be on display through April 26.



"Space Invader," acrylic on canvas, 20x16" by artist Chris Bordenca.

personal connections to objects and places from his youth in the seventies and eighties, including paintings of action figures, toys, and video games from that era. After a ten-year hiatus he returned to painting in 2018. Since then, he has shown his work around the valley in group shows, and a show in Australia to benefit victims of the wildfires. His painting "Starless Sea With Keys" won first place for acrylic painting at the 2020 Northeast Fine Arts Exposition. Chris has a BFA from UMass Amherst and lives with his family in Belchertown.

"Almost nothing gets forgotten anymore. The past exists in the collective memory of the internet, and we can reach in and physically bring those memories

See **DISPLAY**, page 14 •

UMass Theater's COVEN-19 witches return in a new ritual for spring

AMHERST – The springtime significance of May Day and Beltane is the creative jumping-off point for a new edition of COVEN-19, Or, Magicks for Unprecedented Times, running April 29, 30 and May 1 live online at UMass Theater as part of our Rights of Spring festival.

COVEN-19, pun very much intended, is a community of artistic witches who are called upon to own their individual and collective power, make meaning out of utter chaos, and manifest tangible, seismic change.

As in October, the community will fuse witchcraft and theater into an online, immersive format that aims to heal some of the collective hurt and grief of the past year. However, this will be a different performance, as this spring's ritual will be performed in honor of Beltane, or May Day.

"For me personally, magic is a source of healing and introspection," dramaturgy grad student and co-creator Maegan Clearwood said. She originally proposed this project as a way "to be with other like-minded people and figure out how to make the world a better place."

In keeping with that ethos, this is a devised piece, meaning that rather than working from a script with a single leader, the company built the work by exploring questions and themes together. "It's a really nice opportunity just for us to experiment with ways of making theatre that are egalitarian and collaborative," says fellow grad student and co-creator Percival Hornak.

The time is ripe for magick-making! COVEN-19 is part of The Rights of Spring, a theater festival presented by the



COURTESY IMAGE

COVEN-19, a free series of events will run from April 22 to May 2.

University of Massachusetts Department of Theater to rebuild connections with each other and celebrate what matters in life. As winter thaws out, there is no better time to safely gather and spark joy together. Events run from April 22 to May 2 and are free to the general public with performances in person and online.

This event is free. Visit the Fine Arts Center Box Office to claim your spot in the audience of this and other Rights of Spring Festival events.



Amherst College Symphony Orchestra to host virtual concert: "Black Music Matters" on Saturday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Amherst College to host free virtual performances

AMHERST – The Amherst College Department of Music presents a virtual performance of unjustly neglected masterpieces by Black composers for the concert hall performed by the Amherst College Symphony Orchestra: "Black Music Matters - Part One" Saturday, April 17 at 7 p.m. on the Music Department Events Live Stream page. The event is free. Go to www.amherst.edu/go/musicstream.

More than fifty gifted student classical instrumentalists currently in residence on the Amherst College campus showcase their

talents in all-new content ranging from string quartets, brass and woodwind quintets, to small chamber orchestras. Featured composers include Scott Joplin, William Grant Still, Florence Price, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, George Walker, Margaret Bonds, Nathaniel Dett, Tania Léon, Joseph Boulogne Chevalier de Saint-Georges, and Harry T. Burleigh.

For a complete listing of upcoming Amherst College Department of Music events, please visit us on the web: <https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/events>

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Virtual support groups offered for patients and families facing cancer

VIRTUAL – During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Beginning April 1, virtual support groups will be held by Camille St.Onge, LICSW and oncology social worker. The groups are offered with the support of funds raised by the Walk of Champions event or fundraisers.

“Offering support groups virtually brings people together regardless of their location,” said St. Onge. “Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during

and after a cancer diagnosis. While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in common, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, understanding, and encouragement.”

The support groups are designed to help patients, their families and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Beginning April 1, virtual support group offered include:

- General Cancer Support Group: first Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Partners in Caregiving: second Wednesday of each month, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 - Expressive Writing through Cancer, third Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Breast Cancer Support Group, fourth Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- All meetings are held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. For more information contact Camille St. Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by email at cstomagin@gmail.com.

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DISPLAY • from page 13

into our present,” Chris said. These paintings are tangible and joyful reminders of the most recent pre-internet past, even if you weren’t an 80’s kid.

Walk-ins are welcome for the gallery. Masks required. Currently we are allowing four customers in the shop at one time.

About Hope & Feathers Framing and Gallery:

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Tyler McDonald lines up his free throw.



Joseph Bianco tries to lift a short-range shot.



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come up
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HOLYOKE – Last Thursday, the Fall 2 season continued with boys basketball action at Holyoke High School. Belchertown and Holyoke would never usually match up, but with fewer teams playing and COVID issues shutting down games, the matchup came to fruition. Belchertown gave Holyoke a close game, but came up on the losing end 58-50. Belchertown is 2-3.

ABOVE: Evan White fights through the Holyoke defense to shoot.

RIGHT: Jordan Lanoue shoots under pressure.



Henry Audette gets a little air as he attempts a layup.



BASEBALL

Gameplay largely unaffected in baseball change

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While gameplay will remain largely the same, many high school baseball players will have to change a number of habits at least to start the baseball season in May.

Baseball is a game of superstition, habitual repetition of certain motions and the needed to do things like spit seeds and chew gum.

But under the modifications to the sport made by the Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs, players will have to refrain some certain behaviors, wear masks, and maintain distance despite the game itself involving a lot of distance.

The EEA, which has been making modifications to high school sports and working with the MIAA to ensure safe play during the pandemic, did not have to do much to change how the game of baseball is played. But a number of the “dirty” habits needed to be curtailed to make it safer.

Consumption and spitting of sunflower and other seeds are prohibited this season. Players also cannot chew or spit during games. Spitting is also a major habit in baseball, and is banned for high schoolers and adults.

See **BASEBALL**, page 16 •

RACING

Racing action kicks off at Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, Conn. — Hudson, NH’s Derek Griffith went wire-to-wire to capture the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Thompson 75 at the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10. Griffith grabbed the lead in the first corner and was on a rail from there, claiming victory in the headliner for the afternoon session of the 82nd Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park season opener.

Griffith’s win kept the young star perfect on the PASS Super Late Model season. He captured both PASS National Easter Bunny 150 events at North Carolina’s Hickory Motor Speedway the previous weekend. Now Griffith also has a win in the PASS North championship opener.

It took less than 500 feet for

Griffith to get to the front at Thompson. He started second after winning the second qualifying heat, and when polesitter Ben Rowe had trouble coming up to speed, Griffith and several others shot past.

The only thing that could slow Griffith was the race’s lone caution on lap 3 when Garrett Hall tagged the backstretch wall. When the field went green again, Griffith put the hammer down. Rowley, MA’s Eddie “The Outlaw” MacDonald gave chase as best he could, and could narrow the gap some in traffic, but Griffith restored his margin every time they got clear.

Even as multiple other drivers had strong runs go sour in the unseasonable warm weather,

Griffith never wavered. He ultimately put more than half the field a lap down and cruised to an impressive win.

“I love it here,” Griffith said after the race. “I tell people all the time about how cool the Icebreaker is and how big of a weekend it is. You know we travel everywhere and not everybody understands how big of a weekend it is — and not just for PASS...so to come get another (win) here is pretty cool. It’s definitely one to mark off.”

MacDonald finished second with Center Conway, NH’s Gabe Brown a comfortable third. Rowe recovered from his early troubles and held off Rowland Robinson Jr. for fourth. Reigning PASS North champion D.J. Shaw,

Johnny Clark, Corey Casagrande, Mike Scorzelli, and Dan Winter rounded out the top-10.

Berlin, CT’s Keith Rocco came out on top of a barnburner to win the Sunoco Modified season opener. Rocco started fourth in the 30-lap main event and took the lead from Oxford, MA’s Troy Talman on a lap-9 restart after Christian Turissi’s spin.

Wolcott, CT’s Mike Christopher moved into the runner-up spot following the second caution on lap 13. Rocco and Christopher pulled away from the field nose-to-tail for several laps, but with seven to go, the real battle began. Christopher dove inside Rocco



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Keith Rocco was a winner at last weekend’s Icebreaker event.

See **RACING**, page 16 •

SPORTS

New head coach for Blue Sox

HOLYOKE—The Valley Blue Sox are proud to announce the signing of Hezekiah (Hez) Randolph as the new head coach beginning this 2021 season.

“I couldn’t be more excited to join the Blue Sox as head coach,” said Randolph, who has a colorful history with the Sox, from being a player in the 2016 season to joining the coaching staff as a hitting coach in 2018.

“I think everyone’s goal is to one day fill the position of head coach, so I am first thrilled to take on this role.” He continued, “Secondly, to be the head coach for the Blue Sox, an organization that holds a special place in my heart.”

Randolph, 25, hails from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is an alumnus of the University of New Orleans, where he played collegiate baseball at the Division I level.

“I’m a southern kid, and I started playing unorganized baseball when I was two years old with my parents. I was hitting balls across the room,” he laughed, “and that’s when my dad decided that baseball was something that he should start investing in for me.”

Randolph played baseball, basketball, and football at Parkview Baptist High School in Baton Rouge, where he discovered his passion for baseball, although “most people thought that football was my better sport,” he said. After dropping basketball, his “first love,” he ended up loving baseball more and more, and “it became the sport I saw myself playing at the next level.”

Randolph excelled at the University of New Orleans, starting as a freshman and contributing

ing to the “tough turnaround” of the team. He led the Privateers in RBI (31), doubles (11), home runs (4), and slugging percentage (.433), in addition to being named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American in his first year and All-Louisiana First Team in his senior year.

The summer after his junior year, the Blue Sox staff reached out to Randolph’s college coach in hopes of having him join the 2016 roster.

“They actually thought I was some kind of myth,” Randolph recalled, “Why would a guy from New Orleans, Louisiana show up to Massachusetts?”

In the end, Randolph did show up. He spent the summer with the Blue Sox, and was selected for the New England Collegiate Baseball League All-Star Game, in addition to earning second-team honors.

Randolph found a home with the Blue Sox organization. “It was probably the best time of my life. I had an awesome host family who I still communicate with, as they were such an amazing blessing to me. They continue to help me develop as a man and I truly view them as family.” He said.

When he wasn’t playing that summer, Randolph spent his free time giving hitting lessons. “I was developing as a player myself, but also learning how to develop other players to be able to reach their own goals.”

Randolph’s coaching style and philosophy originates in large part from the teachings of the previous Blue Sox head coach and current Director of Baseball Operations, John Raiola.

“John has been an amaz-

ing mentor for me. I never really experienced a coach put in the time to develop the person and not just the athlete,” said Randolph. “The mental part of it is always going to play a part in a player’s performance, and John definitely got me to understand that.”

Randolph was coaching a travel team when Raiola called to offer him the position as head coach.

“Throughout that summer, I enjoyed coaching so much that I thought to myself: If I love it so much, why not do it for a living? This was an opportunity I could not pass up.” He recalls.

In anticipation of the season, Randolph is looking forward to figuring out how to connect to his players as a head coach.

“The dynamic [from being an assistant coach to a head coach] is different.” He said, “The players feel like they can be a little more comfortable with you, because, at the end of the day, an assistant doesn’t really make the lineup.

I think that is going to be the most interesting part, as John really taught me how important it is to be able to connect with your players and find out how you are going to motivate them. If you’re coaching a bunch of unmotivated guys, it’s going to be hard to drive them to win and be the best player that they can be. At the end of the day, developing players is what this is all about.” He said.

Randolph’s experience with the Blue Sox gave him a new outlook on the game of baseball, and he could not be more excited to begin his journey as head coach. According to Randolph, “this opportunity pretty much changed my life.”

MIAA hosts virtual wellness summit

FRANKLIN – The Annual Wellness Summit, which was offered at no cost and intended for student leaders and school personnel, included a morning and afternoon session each day. Over 500 participants were engaged in 12 interactive workshops covering subjects such as student and staff mental health, self-care and resiliency, substance misuse prevention, promoting support for LGBTQ students, suicide prevention, sports injury prevention, clean eating and diet culture and student leadership and teamwork. Participants included students, teachers, nurses, school administrators, wellness coordinators and school resource officers.

Workshop presenters included members of the MIAA Partners in Prevention, a powerful collab-

oration of public and private prevention agencies and initiatives. These agencies provide generous support, resources and expertise in the delivery of wellness services and programs. Presenters included: Ivy Watts (Ivy Watts Speaks), Jeff Perrotti (DESE Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students), Charity Bell (MA Department of Mental Health), Robert Hackenson, Jr. (Dynamic Influence), Student Advisory Committee (SAC) (MIAA), Jon Mattleman (Minding Your Mind), Kendra McDonald (Samaritans), Dr. Andrew Chen and Kate Fischer (University Orthopedics), Theresa Melito-Connors (Dr. MC’s Self Care Cabaret), Monika Ostroff (MEDA), Chris Sullivan (Not in the Playbook) and Kathi Meyer Sullivan (Taylor’s Message).

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother’s Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final

week of July with the playoffs for the top four teams during the first two weeks of August. Tryouts are set for the first three weekends in April. Tryouts will be Saturday, April 3, Sunday, April 11, and Sunday, April 18, all weather-permitting. A draft for new players will be held after the final tryout. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.

RACING • from page 15

entering turn 3, the first of what would be six passes in as many laps. Rocco, however, kept putting his Modified out front at the start/finish line where it counted.

As the duo got the two-to-go signal, Christopher finally had the lead by a nose at the line and cleared Rocco entered turn one. Rocco went back underneath him in the third turn, and the two banged nerf bars. Christopher slid up the track, allowing Rocco to get away for another victory in his dominating Thompson Speedway career.

Talman and Todd Owen also got past Christopher thanks to the late contact, finishing second and third in the final rundown. Christopher had to settle for fourth. Danny Cates, Jonathan Puleo, John Lowinski-Loh, Richard Williams, Jason Sundeen, and Paul LaPlante completed the top-10.

Franklin, MA’s Bobby Santos III kicked off his Icebreaker weekend with a victory in the 25-lap NEMA LITES Midgets feature. Santos started seventh in the Matt and Bob Seymour-owned #1, and after a slow start, began him march to the front. He inherited the second spot on lap 13 when Dan Cugini’s Midget shut down, then caught leader Jim Santa Maria with eight laps to go.

One lap later, Santos drove beneath Santa Maria on the front stretch and cleared him entering turn 1. It was no contest from there as Santos sailed to the victory.

Santa Maria came in second followed by Jake Trainor. Kyle Valeri, Richie Coy, Paul Scally, Christopher Vose, Tiana Kibbe, Matt Seavy, and Cugini finched fourth through 10th.

Plymouth, MA Paul Newcomb ended a frenetic two days on a high note by winning the 25-lap Street Stock Open feature. Newcomb started fourth and found an opening early, muscling beneath polesitter Ryan Waterman in turn four to take the lead after two laps.

Candia, NH’s Jimmy Renfrew Jr. was the only driver who could even come close to hanging with Newcomb on the ensuing green-flag run. Renfrew got a shot on a restart with eight laps to go after Zachary Mead’s spin. But the #00 got loose exiting turn four the following lap. Renfrew eventually slid back to fourth as Newcomb marched to the victory.

Waterman finished second with Kyle Gero third. Joe Kohler, Wayne Coury, Bobby Segar Jr., Devin McConologue, Justin Travis, and Nick Hovey also earned top-10 finishes.

Freeport, NY’s Gerard Giordano Jr. won a photo finish over Warwick, RI’s Ryan Vanasse in the 35-lap EXIT



Sean Newcomb also picked up a win.

Realty Pro Truck Challenge feature. Vanasse had pulled away in the middle stages of the event, but Giordano had the better long-run truck and ran him down with seven laps to go. The fourth and final caution came out soon after, setting up a four-lap dash to the finish.

Vanasse initially cleared Giordano on the restart. With two laps to go, though, Giordano ducked back inside. Entered turn for the final time, the duo touched and got sideways. After gathering it up, they banged doors again coming to the line. It was Giordano, the former series champion, edging Vanasse by 0.015 seconds for the win.

Waterford, CT’s Emma Monahan had a strong run for third. Duane Noll, Connor Souza, Joe Arena, Andy Lindeman, Todd Taylor, Joseph Coates, and Randy Coates opened their season with top-10 finishes.

Sterling, CT’s Jared Roy continued his domination of the Thompson Mini Stocks with a victory in their 15-lap feature. Roy came from seventh on the starting grid to run down Steven Michalski at the halfway mark. After ducking inside Michalski as the leaders completed lap nine, Roy completed the pass entering turn one a circuit later.

Coming out of turn four the next time around, Michalski broke loose and spun to bring out the race’s only caution. Roy had a rear-view mirror full of Gales Ferry, CT’s Thomas Silva over the final four laps, but held on for the victory. Dave Trudeau, Douglas Curry, and Charles Canfield completed the top-five.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

BASEBALL • from page 15

In high school, following warm-ups each half-inning, it is common for infielders, the catcher, and pitcher to have a brief “hype-up” huddle. That action is now banned to limit close contact among players.

If a coach wants to bring the infield into a huddle to discuss a strategy, six-foot distancing is required. Otherwise, the EEA is encouraging coaches to limit mound visits in general, and typically just to one coach, a pitcher, and a catcher.

High-fives and hand shakes are also extremely common in baseball, especially after a runner scores or an at-bat has been completed. While fist-bumps are not specifically banned, the EEA says players must refrain from hand-touching, which includes high-fives, and handshakes. Like all sports, the post-game handshake is suspended until the pandemic has ended.

In order to increase grip on the bat, many players often spit on their hands and/or batting gloves. That practice is also not allowed, especially in the case of players sharing bats.

All shared equipment, specifically batting helmets and bats, and in some cases, catcher’s gear, must all be properly sanitized between uses by different players. However, it can be shared unlike previous seasons and other sports where equipment could not be shared at all.

Game-play itself, is otherwise unaffected. While masks are required, there are no extra timeouts for water breaks as they are built in when a team is batting. There are no modifications to situations where players are in closer contact, such as the batter to catcher close distance, or a baserunner to a first baseman.

The spring season is scheduled to begin on April 26 with games beginning a week or two later. The spring season will go to July 3.



Keep in touch with kids at camp

Summer camp is an exciting way for children to spend their extended vacations from the classroom. Camps cater to various interests, including sports, crafts and even technological hobbies.

Children who attend overnight camps may spend several nights away from home. Some kids take this in stride, while others, possibly away from home for the first time, may experience some homesickness. Staying in touch while the kids are at camp can help alleviate fears and show children their parents care.

Camps now handle communication issues differently than they might have when today's parents were campers. While it once common for campers to send handwritten letters or short missives home to mom and dad, technology has changed that. Today's campers may have access to email accounts, or they even may be allowed to bring mobile phones along. This can facilitate communication, but it also may take away from the camping experience.

Parents need to find a balance between what might be too little or too much contact with campers. After all, camp is kids' chance to grow independent for a few days or weeks.

- Learn camp rules. The information regarding camp rules permit parents to send on-line letters but limit campers to handwritten letters only. Determine if mobile phones are allowed or should be left at home. Knowing the rules can help parents and kids plan accordingly.

- Pack correspondence supplies. Send kids to camp with fun papers, stickers, pens, and other crafty items. This way they'll be inspired to write home once or twice. Provide brief lessons on how to address an envelope for campers

who may not know how.

- Check blogs and texts. Some camps may blog about campers' progress, post information on social media or send out mass texts. These messages can reassure parents that their youngsters are doing just fine. Figure out which tech options are available from camp administrators.

- Send a care package. Treat the campers to some supplies from home. Pack camp-approved snacks and other reminders of home. Be sure to include enough for the entire cabin and your son or daughter will be the camp star.

- Expect some silence. If camp is going well and campers' days are fun-filled, they may be too busy for

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Prevent dehydration during the dog days of summer

A person's desire to be outdoors can sometimes be at odds with the outdoors itself. The dead of winter tends to be a time of year when people know to stay indoors, but the dog days of summer can be dangerous as well.

Heat-related diseases like dehydration can put lives at risk. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration. Understanding dehydration and how to prevent it is essential for anyone who plans to spend time outside during the summer.

What is dehydration?

The U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a dehydrated body does not have enough fluid and electrolytes to work properly. On an average day, the human body needs about three quarts of water. But the USNLM notes that anyone planning to spend time



outside in the hot sun needs significantly more water than that to avoid dehydration.

What are the signs of dehydration?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that people experience dehydration differently. However, there are some common symptoms that indicate someone is dehydrated. These symptoms include:

- thirst,
- less frequent urina-

tion,

- dry skin,
- fatigue,
- light-headedness,
- dizziness,
- confusion, and
- dry mouth and mucous membranes,
- increased heart rate and breathing.

Children who are dehydrated may exhibit additional symptoms, including dry mouth and tongue; no tears and crying; no wet diapers for several hours; sunken abdomen, eyes or cheeks; listlessness; irritability; and skin

that does not flatten when pinched and released.

How to prevent dehydration

Drinking plenty of fluids when working or playing in the sun is one way to prevent dehydration. Being sure to take in more fluid than you are losing is another way to prevent dehydration. Anyone, and especially people who sweat a lot, should keep a close eye on fluid loss when spending time outdoors in the summer. Sports drinks that help people maintain their electrolyte balance, such as Gatorade, can help prevent dehydration as well. Pedialyte is often recommended for sick infants or children who have experienced vomiting, as it can help restore electrolyte balance that was adversely affected when kids became sick. The solution can be equally effective at restoring electrolyte balance that was thrown off during heat exposure.

Dehydration poses a significant health risk at any time of year, but people who spend time out in the summer heat may be especially vulnerable. Limiting time spent outdoors on hot days and keeping a close eye on your fluid intake and fluid levels can help prevent dehydration.



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BUSINESS

River Valley Counseling Center welcomes new senior program director

HOLYOKE – River Valley Counseling Center has named Michele Snizek, MPA as their Senior Program Director.

Snizek will oversee RVCC’s School-Based Health Centers and HIV/AIDS Project to ensure that these grant funded programs are responsive to funder terms and conditions and compliant with grant rules and regulations.

A resident of Belchertown, Snizek is excited about her new position stating, “I get energized when I can utilize my analytical skills to develop programs and opportunities in organizations such as River Valley Counseling Center whose mission is to improve the health of all people in our community.”

Snizek received a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Elms College and a Master’s in Public Administration from Westfield State University. She has extensive experience managing federal and state grants in the greater Holyoke community, development and writing of grant proposals, managing grant compliance, and reporting and budget management for both federal and state applications. She is also a licensed social worker.

“Michele brings a wealth of program and clinical knowledge to this important agency role. We look forward to working with her as she provides vision and leadership to these programs,” said Rosemarie Ansel, MSW, RVCC’s Executive Director.

Prior to joining RVCC, Snizek was the Director of Retention at Holyoke Community College. A key focus of her work was closing HCC’s equity gaps which were only further widened during remote operations this year. This put a spotlight on the need for enhanced mental health services for students. She started her career at Holyoke Community College as a Title III Activity Director where she managed a five-year, \$1.8 million Department of Education grant focused on first year students. For



Michele Snizek, MPA

over 20 years, Snizek held two different positions, Director of Planning and Development and Director of Program Operations, at Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield Head Start, Inc.

About River Valley Counseling Center: River Valley Counseling Center, Inc. (RVCC) is a multifaceted mental health agency with a 68 year history of changing lives and empowering our community throughout the Pioneer Valley. RVCC is a member of Valley Health Systems in Holyoke which also includes the affiliates Holyoke Medical Center, Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice Life Care, and Holyoke Medical Group. RVCC services include: outpatient behavioral health clinics; school-based health centers (Teen Clinics); HIV/AIDS Project; CONCERN Employee Assistance Program; and behavioral health services in schools, physician offices, and community organizations.

To learn more about RVCC, please visit our website: rvccinc.org.

BusinessWest accepting nominations for 40 Under Forty award

SPRINGFIELD — BusinessWest magazine is currently accepting nominations for its coveted 40 Under Forty Alumni Achievement Award, and will accept them until April 23.

When BusinessWest launched its 40 Under Forty program in 2007, it did so to identify rising stars across the region — individuals who were excelling in business and through involvement within the community — and celebrate their accomplishments. In 2015, the magazine announced a new award, one that builds on the foundation upon which 40 Under Forty was created. It’s called the Alumni Achievement Award (formerly the Continued Excellence Award). As the name suggests, this honor will be presented to the 40 Under Forty honoree who, in the eyes of an independent panel of judges, has most impressively continued and built upon his or her track record of accomplishment.

Those at BusinessWest encourage submissions to be thorough, detailing the candidate’s success in business, involvement in the community, and awards and designations. Supporting information (such as a résumé) may be sent

to godaire@businesswest.com. Please include the nominee’s name in the subject line.

Five finalists will be announced in the May 12 edition of BusinessWest, and the winner will be celebrated at the annual 40 Under Forty Gala on June 24.

Past winners include: 2020: Carla Cosenzi, president, TommyCar Auto Group (40 Under Forty class of 2012), and Peter DePergola, director of Clinical Ethics, Baystate Health (class of 2015); 2019: Cinda Jones, president, W.D. Cows Inc. (class of 2007); 2018: Samalid Hogan, regional director, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (class of 2013); 2017: Scott Foster, attorney, Bulkley Richardson (class of 2011), and Nicole Griffin, owner, ManeHire (class of 2014); 2016: Dr. Jonathan Bayuk, president, Allergy & Immunology Associates of New England (class of 2008); 2015: Delcie Bean, president, Paragus Strategic IT (class of 2008).

For more information, call Jennifer Godaire, Marketing and Events director, at 413-781-8600, ext. 100, or e-mail godaire@businesswest.com.

OBITUARY

Colton Banks

ATHOL – Colton T. Banks, 29, previously of Belchertown, passed away unexpectedly at his home on April 3, 2021.

Born Aug. 27, 1991, he is the son of Timothy Banks and Lacie (DeHimer) Banks. Colton grew up in Belchertown and graduated from Belchertown High School.

For the past five years, he has lived with his wife, Alanna, in their home in Athol. After high school, Colton did welding and metal work and for the past several years, worked as a cook. He was not only a cook during his working day, but he loved to create special food in the kitchen alongside Alanna. His friends and family have savored his cooking creations for many years. He had a “knack” for collecting friends and touched many people’s lives.

Colton loved music and appreciated the tunes through playing and listening to music of all kinds. He loved playing D&D with his friends throughout the years. Growing up, Colton and his family always had dogs and his love for the four-legged companion continued into his adulthood. His love and memory will forever remain with his parents, Lacie Banks of Belchertown and Timothy Banks of Belchertown. Alanna (Davies) Banks, his wife and long-time companion and soulmate, will forever cherish his life and love along with his younger sister, Lorelei Banks of Belchertown, to whom he was very close with and shared a special bond. He also leaves many extended family members and friends.

A visitation will be held Saturday, April 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Dakin Humane Society or ASPCA to honor Colton’s love for animals.

For details, please visit www.beersandstory.com



DEATH NOTICE

Banks, Colton T.
Died: April 3, 2021
Visitation April 17
1 to 3 p.m.
Beers & Story
Belchertown
Funeral Home

The Sentinel
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

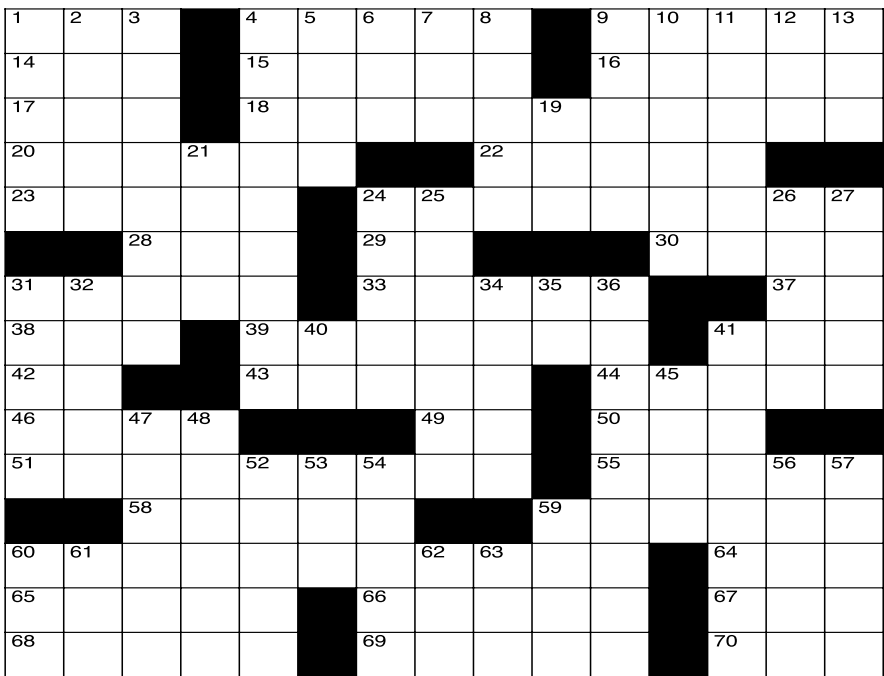
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- 20. Hoarded
- 22. Theatrically portray
- 23. Noah’s grandson
- 24. Dependent
- 28. Peyton’s little brother
- 29. Cools the house
- 30. Principle part of
- 31. Type of wrap
- 33. Peels
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Make an attempt
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. U. Utah athlete
- 42. Old English

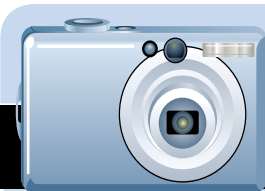
- 43. Trade
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Ticket seller __Hub
- 49. Of I
- 50. Institute legal proceedings against
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Doorway
- 58. Long int’l river
- 59. Trailblazing athlete
- 60. Former CBS News host
- 64. Sign language
- 65. Badgerlike mammal
- 66. Thin strips of wood
- 67. Brooklyn hoopster
- 68. Portents of good or evil
- 69. Footwear
- 70. When you think you’ll arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Batflower genus
- 2. Predatory seabirds

- 3. Fish farm
- 4. Arrangements
- 5. Go in advance of others
- 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
- 7. “__ Maria”
- 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
- 9. Wild Asian oxen genus
- 10. Vinegary
- 11. To this
- 12. Explosive
- 13. Female sibling
- 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
- 21. Type of hoop
- 24. About Holy Father
- 25. Academic environment
- 26. Extremely angry
- 27. Surrenders
- 31. Swiss mountain pass

- 32. Sharp mountain ridge
- 34. Erases
- 35. Spielberg’s alien
- 36. Absurd
- 40. Dorm worker
- 41. Used to make pesticides
- 45. The sister of your father or mother
- 47. A way to let know
- 48. Can’t produce much vegetation
- 52. Small streams
- 53. Folk singer DiFranco
- 54. Weights
- 56. Start over
- 57. Black Sea resort city
- 59. Wimbledon champ
- 60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 61. Unskilled actor who overacts
- 62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 63. Of or relating to ears



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Legislature passes landmark Climate Change Bill

BOSTON – On Jan. 28, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the climate crisis facing our Commonwealth by passing legislation that overhauls our state’s climate laws, drives down greenhouse gas emissions, creates clean energy jobs, and protects environmental justice communities.

The passage of An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (S.9), comes after a joint commitment from Senate President Karen E. Spilka and House Speaker Ronald Mariano, as well as last session’s House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, Senator Michael Barrett and Representative Thomas Golden, to refile the legislation following a gubernatorial veto last session.

“This legislation outlines a clear roadmap to address our immediate climate crisis,” stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “Time is of the essence and we could not let a delay hamper our efforts to protect future generations. The necessary tools included in this legislation will soon lead to lower emissions, a thriving green economy, and cleaner air and water for all. I want to thank my legislative partner, House Speaker Mariano for his collaboration, Senator Barrett and Representative Golden for their steadfast support, and the residents of Massachusetts for their support in this endeavor.”

“The House and Senate again acted to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, lead on clean energy, and protect environmental justice communities,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank Senate President Spilka for her commitment to joining the House in responding immediately to Governor Baker’s veto of this important legislation. I am also grateful for the work and leadership of Chairman Golden, and for my colleagues in the House for acting with the urgency the climate crisis demands.”

“The most recent numbers tell us Massachusetts is backsliding in terms of reducing emissions,” said Senator Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. “This bill is our chance to get back on track and stay there. It’s ambitious but balanced, and the most important piece of climate legislation to come before us since 2008.

Tip of the hat to President Spilka and Speaker Mariano for putting us back to work on climate immediately. Because of them, the legislation’s odds of ultimate success are excellent.”

“If not for the initiative and resolve of Speaker Mariano and Senate President Spilka, the Next-Generation Roadmap bill would not have been before the Legislature in the first month of the 2021 - 2022 session,” said Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr. (D-Lowell), Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. “I am beyond proud to have once again voted with my colleagues on this path-breaking legislation and I look forward to continued collaboration to make it law and propel the Commonwealth towards its clean energy future.”

“For too long low-income communities, especially those of color, have been disproportionately burdened with health hazards through policies that forced them to live in close proximity to harmful and toxic health risks,” said Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). “I am proud to be a new Senator with colleagues who take environmental justice seriously. While there may need to be more work done on biomass issues, I am eager to continue advocating for the safety and health of my district.”

The bill sets a 2050 net-zero greenhouse gas emissions limit, as well as statewide limits every five years; increases the requirements for offshore wind energy procurement bringing the statewide total authorization to 5,600 megawatts; requires emission reduction goals for MassSave, the state’s energy efficiency program; and, for the first time, establishes the criteria in statute that define environmental justice populations. The legislation also increases support for clean energy workforce development programs including those targeting low-income communities, and improves gas pipeline safety.

The legislation includes, among other items, the following provisions.

Sets a statewide net-zero limit on greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and mandates emissions limits every five years, as well as limits for specific sectors of the economy, including transportation and buildings.

Codifies environmental justice provisions into Massachusetts law, defining environmental justice populations and providing new tools and protec-

tions for affected neighborhoods.

Requires an additional 2,400 megawatts of offshore wind, building on previous legislation action and increases the total authorization to 5,600 megawatts in the Commonwealth.

Directs the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), the regulator of the state’s electric and natural gas utilities, to balance priorities going forward: system safety, system security, reliability, affordability, equity, and, significantly, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Sets appliance energy efficiency standards for a variety of common appliances including plumbing, faucets, computers, and commercial appliances.

Adopts several measures aimed at improves gas pipeline safety, including increased fines for safety violations and regulations related to training and certifying utility contractors.

Increases the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 3 percent each year from 2025 - 2029, resulting in 40 percent renewable energy by 2030.

Establishes an opt-in municipal net-zero energy stretch code, including a definition of “net-zero building.”

Prioritizes equitable access to the state’s solar programs by low-income communities

Establishes \$12 million in annual funding for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center in order to create a pathway to the clean energy industry for environmental justice populations and minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

Provides solar incentives for businesses by exempting them from the net metering cap to allow them to install solar systems on their premises to help offset their electricity use and save money.

Requires utilities to include an explicit value for greenhouse gas reductions when they calculate the cost-effectiveness of an offering of MassSave.

Creates a first-time greenhouse gas emissions standard for municipal lighting plants that requires them to purchase 50 percent non-emitting electricity by 2030 and “net-zero” by 2050.

Sets benchmarks for the adoption of clean energy technologies including electric vehicles, charging stations, solar technology, energy storage, heat pumps and anaerobic digestors.

The bill is now with the governor.

■ PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40 (Wetlands Protection Act) and the Belchertown Wetland Bylaw, the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing virtually on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM**. The purpose of this meeting is to review a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single family home at 271 Michael Sears Road; Map 269, Parcel 100.1. Anyone interested in this matter should attend remotely: <https://www.gotomeet.me/BelchertownConservation> 04/15/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
Docket No. HS13P0165GD
In the interests of
Makenzie J Dille
Of Belchertown, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal of Guardianship of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Tracy Cayo Johnson** on 3/17/2021 will be held **05/04/2021 10:00 AM** Guardianship of Minor Hearing through Zoom. us or call 646 828 7666, ID#1614039111. Judge Fidnick Hearing Session.

Located 15 Atwood Drive, Northampton, MA 01060

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor:
The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: March 26, 2021
Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
04/15/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Mass Humanities awards Massachusetts Cultural Council Funding

AMHERST – Mass Humanities announced today the awarding of \$250,000 to 59 non-profit organizations across Massachusetts through funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Among those were the Amherst Historical Society which received \$3,000 and the Emily Dickinson Museum which received \$5,000.

A new round of grants from Mass Humanities will give museums, his-

torical societies and other cultural organizations the opportunity to reach their audiences digitally as the COVID-19 pandemic persists. From laptops to website upgrades, mobile walking tours to virtual exhibits, the Digital Capacity Grants announced today provide residents with access to their heritage despite social distancing.

“These grants are part of our ongoing response to the pandemic,

but they also provide a preview of the future of public humanities programming,” said Mass Humanities Executive Director Brian Boyles. “As we begin to rebuild from the impacts of this crisis, our communities deserve the chance to engage with each other and our cultural heritage. It’s also clear that the digital space offers organizations the chance to build their audiences.”



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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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Regional helpline to reduce intimate partner violence launches this week

REGION – Ten to Ten, a free, confidential helpline for people who abuse or may abuse their intimate partner, will be launched on April 15.

The Helpline is the first of its kind in the United States, although similar programs exist in Australia and the United Kingdom.

The Helpline (877-898-3411) will serve Western Massachusetts and will operate from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days a year.

Family, friends and professionals worried that someone may harm their partner can also call the Helpline.

The Project is part of a broad national movement that seeks to increase non-criminal responses to intimate partner violence through the creation of community-based restorative practice.

The Helpline is a collaboration between the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission,

Behavioral Health Network and Growing a New Heart. An Advisory Board of regional partners as well as two rural domestic violence task forces from the Ware River Valley and the Southern Hilltowns will oversee and guide the project.

“Our communities can engage in the lifelong practice of supporting change and accountability with compassion, and without collusion. This is a practice that will strengthen us all, making survivors safer,” according to JAC Patrissi, founder of Proteus, the largest Intimate Partner Abuse Education Program in Western Massachusetts and Director of Growing A New Heart. “Socializing people towards peace and safety comes in stages that we can embrace for survivors’ sake. Sometimes an abusive person just has to be safe enough for a rural survivor to leave the relationship

without leaving the place they have lived their whole lives.”

“People who abuse their partners are our neighbors, the people we group up with, our family and sometimes our friends. That is the hard truth,” according to Monica Moran, Manager of Domestic Violence Prevention Projects at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. “This doesn’t mean they are not accountable for the harm they cause. But it does mean that if they want to learn how to be safe in their relationships, if they want to learn how to hold themselves accountable, we need to be ready to work with them. We need to build resources and services that can help them learn from people who are always safe in their relationships.”

Sue West, Senior Vice President at Behavioral Health Network added, “Behavioral Health Network is delighted to

participate in this important service which aims to increase safety and provide alternatives to abuse. Professionals will use the helpline to access resources and intervention tips; community members will learn ways to be safe in their relationships both in the moment and over time.”

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission secured Federal CARES Act of 2020 funding for the Helpline in partnership with 25 towns in the region, with Ware as the lead town. CARES Act funding is intended to address the impact of COVID-19, and studies across the country and the world show an increase in intimate partner violence since the pandemic started.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is providing supplemental funding so that the Helpline can serve all of Western Massachusetts.

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